

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Tonbridge Rural Sanitary District,

In 1896.

CENSUS 1881.		CENSUS 1891.	
No. of Acres	41,761	No. of Acres	41,771
Inhabited Houses	2,918	Inhabited Houses	3,278
Population	15,184	Population	17,831

The **Population** was estimated, by the method adopted by the Registrar-General, to be 18,051 at the middle of 1896, showing an increase of 46 since the middle of 1895.

The registered births amounted to 518, and included 269 of males and 249 of females. The **Birth-rate** was 28·6 per 1,000, as against 26·9 in 1894 and 26·4 in 1895.

Three hundred and seven deaths were returned, including 171 of males and 136 of females.

The **Death-rate** was 14·2 per 1,000.

Of the total 307 deaths, 30 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz., 1 by Scarlet Fever, 11 by Diphtheria, 2 by Enteric Fever, 5 by Measles, 9 by Whooping-cough, and 2 by Diarrhœa.

These produced a **Zymotic Death-rate** of 1·6 per 1,000 as compared with 1·1 in 1895 and 0·4 in 1894.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 registered births was 115, as against 138 in 1895.

During the year 1896 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales as a whole was 29·7, the general death-rate 17·1, and the Zymotic death-rate 2·18 per 1,000 of population. The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age to each 1,000 registered births was 148.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, 168 cases were reported including one of Small-pox, 76 of Scarlet Fever, 53 of Diphtheria, 3 of Membranous Croup, 8 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 26 of Erysipelas.

SMALL-POX.—A single case of this disease was reported. On the evening of the 9th of April a tramp and his wife who had come from Tonbridge, sought admission to the casual ward of the Union Workhouse, Pembury. The man's appearance next day being suspicious, the Medical Officer to the Workhouse saw him, Small-pox was diagnosed, and the case reported to me by wire the same day (10th). He had evidently been suffering from the disease for several days. A tent was erected on the ground adjoining the Capel Hospital to which the man, with his wife, were removed on the 11th.

The ward at the Workhouse was thoroughly disinfected, and no other persons contracted the disease.

The case was a very mild one and the patient was discharged on May 11th. He had been re-vaccinated 18 years previously, as had also his wife, who did not contract the disease.

The origin was very clearly traced to a previous case with whom these people had come in contact at a common lodging-house.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease was prevalent throughout the district. Twenty cases occurred in Brenchley, 6 in Capel and Tudely, 9 in Hadlow, 4 in Hildenborough, 17 in Lamberhurst 15 in Speldhurst, and 5 in Tonbridge Rural Parish.

None were reported from Ashurst, Bidborough, Horsmonden or Pembury. Every month of the year, with the exception of December, were productive of some cases, from a maximum of 20 in August to a minimum of one in November, as follows:—January, 9; February, 12; March, 7; April, 10; May, 2; June, 2; July, 3; August, 20; September, 7; October, 3; November, 1; December, 0; total, 76 cases.

The majority affected were children of school age. Ten of the patients were aged from one to 5 years, 56 from 5 to 15 years, 9 from 15 to 25 years, and one from 25 to 65 years.

Only one death occurred—a boy aged two years, who died on December 2nd, at Groombridge, in the parish of Speldhurst.

The National School at Groombridge was closed on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever among the scholars from January 3rd to February 11th.

DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).—In common with many surrounding districts, and with the country generally, Diphtheria existed to an abnormal extent.

Two cases occurred in Bidborough, 7 in Brenchley, 4 in Hadlow, 1 in Horsmonden, 3 in Lamberhurst, 5 in Pembury, 31 in Speldhurst, and 3 in the Tonbridge Rural Parish. The disease was in several cases of a very virulent and rapidly fatal type.

The cases were distributed over the year as follows:—

January	...	0	}		July	...	...	8	}	
February	...	1		2	August	...	...	9		21
March	...	1			September	...	...	4		
April	...	1	}		October	...	...	6	}	
May	...	0		9	November	...	...	12		24
June	...	8			December	...	...	6		

Eleven deaths resulted.

The case-mortality at all ages was 19·6 per cent. of notified cases, and the Diphtheria death-rate 0·6 per 1,000 of the population. The case-mortality of those under 5 years of age was 50 per cent.; that of those over 5 years of age, 7·5 per cent.

The actual fatalities at the various age periods were as below:—

0—1 years.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.		
1	15	27	7	6	...	56 cases.
0	8	3	0	0	...	11 deaths.

The following is a detailed list of the fatalities:—

		Age.	
2nd Quarter	{ 1 June 23rd	2 years	Rusthall (Speldhurst Parish).

		Age.	
3rd Quarter	2 July 21st	2 years	Brenchley.
	3 July 21st	5 years	Rusthall.
	4 August 4th	3 years	Hawkenbury (Tonbridge Rural Parish).
	5 August 16th	4 years	Brenchley.
	6 August 22nd	23 months	(a)Pembury.
	7 September 21st	2 years	Brenchley.
4th Quarter	8 October 21st	8 years	Rusthall.
	9 October 27th	4 years	(a)Pembury.
	10 October 29th	5 years	Rusthall.
	11 December 27th	16 months	(b)Rusthall.

(a) Notified as Diphtheria ; deaths returned as Membranous Croup.

(b) Membranous Croup.

It will be seen from the above that 5 deaths occurred in 31 cases in Speldhurst Parish ; 3 in 7 cases in Brenchley ; 2 in 5 cases in Pembury ; and 1 in 3 cases in Tonbridge Rural.

A Special Report, dated December 16th, was presented to your Council, dealing with this local prevalence of Diphtheria, its incidence, fatality, and the means which were being adopted for the prevention of its further spread during the 3rd quarter of the year.

ENTERIC (Typhoid) FEVER.—Of the 8 notified cases two were fatal, both deaths occurring in Lamberhurst ; one in October, the patient being a child of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of age ; and the other in November of an adult.

The cases reported occurred 2 in Horsmonden, 5 in Lamberhurst, and 1 in Speldhurst.

It is apparent that a comparative immunity from this disease exists, but every condition is present for its spread in several parts of the district, notably at Lamberhurst and Paddock Wood.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case only was notified at Golden Green (Hadlow Parish) ; this proved fatal on July 30th.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES existed to a considerable extent during the spring and early summer months and necessitated the closure of the Pembury Board School from April 8th to 20th ; the Brenchley National School from May 18th to June 12th ; the Groombridge National School from June 29th to July 20th ; and the Speldhurst National School from June 17th to July 6th.

Five fatal cases occurred, four in Brenchley and one in Speldhurst.

WHOOPING-COUGH caused 9 deaths, 5 in Brenchley, 1 in Horsmonden, 1 in Speldhurst, and 2 in Tonbridge Rural Parish. Seven of these were under 5 years of age.

The Brenchley Board School was closed on account of the prevalence of Whooping-cough and Measles from June 15th to July 3rd.

DIARRHŒA.—Two deaths of infants, aged respectively 12 and 15 months, occurred from Diarrhœa—one in Hadlow and one in the Workhouse.

INFLUENZA.—Five deaths were attributed to this disease, two in February, one in March, and two in April. Four of these were adults, and the other an infant aged 13 months. Two occurred at Brenchley, one at Pembury, one at Hadlow, and one in the Workhouse.

ISOLATION.—Sixty-one cases of infectious diseases were treated at the Isolation Hospital at Capel during the year, *i.e.*, 36.3 per cent. of the notified cases. All were Scarlet Fever cases with the exception of one case of Small-pox and one of Enteric Fever.

The cases were admitted as follows :—

January	...	...	7	cases of Scarlet Fever.	
February	...	...	12	„	„
March	...	...	6	„	„
April	...	...	8	„	„ and one of Small-pox.
May	...	...	3	„	„
June	...	...	3	„	„
July	...	...	3	„	„
August	...	...	13	„	„
September	...	...	3	„	„
October	...	...	2	„	„ and one of Enteric Fever.

The ages of the patients varied from 2 to 41 years. The longest stay in the Hospital was 68, the shortest 13, and the average stay, 45 days.

Mr. Brown's Report of work done during the year, the customary tables and returns required by the Local Government Board are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW,

March 8th, 1897.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances of Work done during 1896.

Number of	bad or insufficient drainage and cesspools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
„	„	Bad construction or condition of privy or cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	31
„	„	Foul or injurious pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	11
„	„	Dwellings in which Zymotic disease occurred, cleansed and disinfected...	...	...	...	...	...	89
„	„	Hopper houses inspected and reported upon	...	...	...	...	...	98
„	„	Schools disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	„	Dirty and dilapidated dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	12
„	„	Dwellings overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	1
„	„	Offensive trades...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„	„	Other nuisances...	...	...	...	...	...	43
„	„	Offensive and dilapidated sinks	...	...	...	...	...	22
„	„	Sinks disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	19
„	„	Fish unfit for human food	...	...	...	...	...	7
„	„	Fruit unfit for human food	...	...	...	...	...	3
„	„	Insufficient privies and urinals	...	...	...	...	...	8
„	„	Defective traps and drains	...	...	...	...	...	62
„	„	Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	20
„	„	Deficient or impure water supply	...	...	...	...	...	16
„	„	Houses connected with South Kent water main	...	...	...	...	...	30
„	„	Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	14
„	„	Samples sent to County Analyst	...	...	...	...	...	4
„	„	Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	2
„	„	Rain water tanks cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
„	„	„ „ „ constructed	...	...	...	...	...	9
„	„	Foul ponds	...	...	...	...	...	—
„	„	W.C.'s in dirty and dilapidated state	...	...	...	...	...	24
„	„	Water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	13
„	„	Pumps out of order and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
„	„	Cowsheds and dairies visited...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„	„	Visits where interference unnecessary	...	...	...	...	...	213
Included in the above are structural alterations effected					...	...	...	236
Number of	privies connected with W.C.		...	...	...	...	...	6
„	„	Dry earth closets	...	...	...	...	...	4
„	„	Kent ventilating privies	...	...	...	...	...	4
Referred to Magistrates		...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE A.

The number of Deaths from all causes, and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, with their Death-Rates; the principal causes of Death, and the Infant Mortality in the Tonbridge Rural District in each Quarter of 1896.

Quarters.	Total Deaths.	Death-Rate per 1,000.	Deaths from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases.	Zymotic Death-Rate.	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	Diarrhœa.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pleurisy, Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births.
1st	70	13·7	3	0·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	4	12	12	3	..	36	139
2nd	65	12·4	5	1·1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	6	5	2	2	1	44	70
3rd	82	15·7	13	2·8	..	..	5	1	..	1	1	4	2	1	12	2	9	9	1	43	163
4th	90	15·7	9	1·9	..	1	2	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	15	13	11	..	..	42	96
Totals	307	14·2	30	1·6	..	1	8	3	2	1	5	9	2	1	37	32	34	5	2	164	115

TABLE B.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the past ten years and in 1896.

Zymotic Diseases.	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	Average of ten years.	1896
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	..	1	..	1	1	2	7	..	1	1·4	1
Diphtheria.. .. .	4	10	2	..	2	3	2	7	2	3	3·5	11
Fevers	3	..	1	2	3	2	1	2	..	1	1·5	2
Measles	7	..	8	8	2	3	2	3	..	6	3·9	5
Whooping-cough	4	2	1	3	9	8	2	3	2	6	4·0	9
Diarrhœa	6	7	4	7	..	4	4	2	2	3	3·9	2
Total of Zymotics	25	19	17	20	17	21	13	24	6	20	18·2	30
Other Zymotics	7	3	2	..	5	11	22	11	6	13	8·0	6
Totals	32	22	19	20	22	32	35	35	12	33	26·2	36

TABLE C.

The larger Parishes in the Tonbridge Rural District, arranged in order of their Death-Rates, with total Deaths, Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, and the Zymotic Death-Rate for the year 1896.

PARISHES	Census Population in 1891.	Total Deaths.	Death-Rate per 1,000.	Deaths from 7 prin- cipal Zymotic Diseases.	Zymotic Death- Rate
Capel and Tudely	1128	8	7·8	0	0·0
Pembury	1662	19	11·0	2	1·1
Speldhurst	2743	37	13·4	8	2·9
Hadlow	2318	30	14·2	1	0·4
Brenchley	3822	57	16·7	12	3·0
Tonbridge	750	9	16·8	3	3·9
Horsmonden	1542	23	18·0	1	0·6

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1896, in the TONBRIDGE Rural Sanitary District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.			
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																
ASHURST	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	
BIDBOROUGH	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
BRENCHLEY	57	19	11	3	1	9	14	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	..	..	3	3	..	2	..	13	30	27	27
CAPEL AND TUDELY	8	2	..	..	..	2	4	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	2	6	6
HADLOW	30	4	4	1	3	9	9	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	1	4	..	1	5	5	8	8
HILDENBOROUGH	16	1	2	2	..	5	6	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	3	3	3
HORSMONDEN	23	10	..	..	2	8	3	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	8	10	13	13
LAMBERHURST	26	6	1	1	1	9	8	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	5	7	19	19
PEMBURY	19	3	2	..	3	5	6	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	3	5	14	14
SPELDHURST	37	6	6	6	2	8	9	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	7	12	25	25
TONBRIDGE	9	1	2	1	..	3	2	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	6	6
HOP-PICKERS and WORK- HOUSE	78	6	2	1	1	24	44	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	11	4	14	1	1	6	8	70	70
TOTALS	307	60	30	15	13	82	107	{ Under 5 (5 upwds.	1	5	3	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	3	7	2	1	4	11	34	1	..	51	90	217	217

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896, in the TONBRIDGE Rural Sanitary District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Age under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.								NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.							
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.							
ASHURST	181	162	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BIDBOROUGH .. .	359	358	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BRENCHLEY .. .	3822	3941	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	2 18	4 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CAPEL AND TUDELY ..	1128	1144	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	3 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HADLOW	2318	2241	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	1 8	1 3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HILDENBOROUGH .. .	1440	1444	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	1 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HORSMONDEN .. .	1542	1548	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LAMBERHURST .. .	1886	1902	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	2 15	1 1	1	..	2 3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
PEMBURY	1662	1810	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	..	2 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SPELDHURST .. .	2743	2749	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	..	2 13	6 24	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
TONBRIDGE .. .	750	752	..	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	1	..	2 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	17831	18051	518	{ Under 5 { 5 upwds.	1	11 65	16 37	3	..	2 6	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..

REPORT on the HEALTH

OF THE

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT

In 1896,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.